



# RELIGIOUS LIFE

*“If one of your relatives or neighbors is in need in the land which the LORD, your God, is giving you, you shall not harden your heart nor close your hand against your people who are in need. Instead, you shall freely open your hand and generously lend what helps to meet that need.” - DEUTERONOMY 15:7-8*

## READING AND DISCUSSION

### JESUS' CHALLENGE TO A RICH YOUNG MAN

One day a young man came up to Jesus and asked, “Good teacher, what do I have to do in order to have eternal life?” Jesus answered him, “Keep the commandments.” “Which ones?” asked the young man. Jesus replied, “Don’t kill or steal or lie. Honor your parents. Love your neighbor as yourself.”

The man said, “I have done that for my whole life. What else can I do?”

The Jesus looked at him and said, “If you want to be perfect, there is still one more thing for you to do: sell everything you have, and give it to the poor. Then you will have treasure in heaven. Then come, follow me.”

But when the young man heard this he became quite sad and went away, because he was very rich...

Then Peter said to Jesus, “We have given up everything we have and followed you.”

Jesus said to them, “Everyone who has given up house or wife or brothers or parents or children for the sake of the kingdom of God will receive back an overabundant return here and now and in heaven.”

(See Luke 18:18-30)





## ACTIVITY



### WORKING TOGETHER!

Complete these challenges by working together with your classmates:

- Form a line across the room with your classmates. Line up in the order of your birthdates.
- Sit in a circle, and pass the object your teacher gives you around the circle without using your hands or letting the object touch the floor.

## GAME

### “HOT POTATO” CHALLENGE TO THE VOWS

Pretend you are a religious brother or sister. Now play Hot Potato. The person who has the “potato” when the music stops has to explain what he or she would do if something happened that challenged his or her vows of poverty, chastity or obedience. Each time the music stops, the teacher will read out one of the challenges, and the person holding the potato responds.



## VISUAL ART



*Carmelite Monks of Wyoming, chanting together in prayer*



*Dominican Nuns of Summit, NJ working on a puzzle together.*

Answer the following questions while looking at the photographs:

1. People who take religious vows live together in a community. How do these photos show that they are like a family?
2. Jesus says in the Gospel that when you are poor for God, you will become very rich in other ways. What rich spiritual blessings are shown here?
3. Can you imagine singing together (like Carmelite monks) and doing activities together (like the Dominican sisters). What would that be like?





## MEDITATIVE PRAYER

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### PETITIONS ON THE VOWS

After your teacher reads each petition, you respond, "Lord, hear our prayer."

*For all the homeless children or orphans in our town, our country and in our world, we pray to the Lord...*

*For all the families in our town, our country and in our world who are having a hard time paying bills, we pray to the Lord...*

*That our own hearts will love the poor, we pray to the Lord...*

*That whether we are rich or poor, our own hearts will be attached to God and people before money and things, we pray to the Lord...*

*For all people who have chosen to take the vow of chastity and not get married so that they can serve others, we pray to the Lord...*

*For all who are single, that they may find good friendships as they follow God's call, we pray to the Lord...*

*That all of us may be single-hearted for God and, in doing so, serve others, we pray to the Lord...*

*For all the people in religious life who have taken the vow of obedience, that their superiors may give them good direction, we pray to the Lord...*

*For our own hearts to want what you want, we pray to the Lord...*

*For the grace to be truly joyful even when we are asked to do something that means work or sacrifice on our part, we pray to the Lord...*

AMEN.

## PRAY TOGETHER

### *Vocation Prayer*



I say yes like Mary,  
And give you my heart.  
To follow you Jesus,  
I will do my part.  
Help me follow your will  
No matter the call.  
Whatever vocation,  
I promise my all.  
AMEN.